

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1 - 20 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 12 have been amended. Claims 16 – 20 have been added. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated February 1, 2005, Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Aucktor et al. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the longitudinal axis of the inner joint member is centered with respect to the inner joint member. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. 608.01(o), Applicants have also amended the specification to include the nomenclature added to the claims to have clear antecedent basis in the specification. It is submitted that the nomenclature is consistent with the application as-filed and does not constitute new matter. Paragraph [0019] of the application as filed sets forth that the axis 40 is of the inner joint member; therefore axis 40 is not an axis of one of the grooves. Furthermore, Figures 1 – 3 cooperate to show that the axis 40 is centered relative to the inner joint member. In particular, the perspective of the views in Figures 2 and 3 are shown in Figure 1. The planes of the views in Figures 2 and 3 are transverse to one another and the axis 40 is centered relative to the inner joint member in both views.

In view of the amendments to claim 1, it is submitted that Aucktor et al. fails to teach or suggest each helical groove disposed in mirrored rotational relation with a corresponding helical groove disposed on an opposite side of the longitudinal axis. The meaning of “mirrored rotational relation” is set forth in paragraphs [0020] and [0021]:

“For convenience, the groove 16a can be characterized as a right-hand groove. The groove 16e extends between the first and second ends 24, 26 in mirrored relation to the groove 16a and, for convenience, can also be referred to as a right-hand groove.” Paragraph [0020]

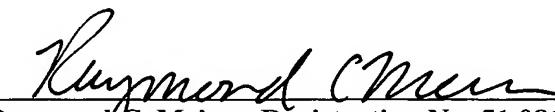
“For convenience, the groove 16c can be referred to as a left-hand groove. The groove 16g extends in mirrored relation to the groove 16c and, for convenience, can also be referred to as a left-hand groove.” Paragraph [0021]

Figure 5 of Aucktor et al. has been cited as showing helical grooves disposed in mirrored rotational relation about a longitudinal axis. It is submitted that the grooves 5b and 5a are not disposed in mirrored rotational relation about the axis 9. Grooves 5a and 5b extend in opposite rotational relation with respect to one another and not in mirrored rotational relation. In other words, one of the grooves 5a and 5b must be characterized as a right-hand groove and the other must be characterized as a left-hand groove. The term “mirrored rotational relation” has been clearly defined in the specification as referring to the fact that both of the referred-to grooves extend in the same rotational direction, either right-hand or left-hand. In addition, a marked-up version of Figure 1 of Aucktor et al. is included with this Amendment to show that none of the helical grooves is mirrored rotational relation with another helical groove. It is therefore submitted that claim 1 patentably defines over Aucktor et al. and is in suitable condition for allowance.

Claims 3, 9 and 11 – 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aucktor et al. in view of Schwarzler, U.S. Pat. No. 5,685,777. As set forth above, Aucktor et al. fails to teach or suggest helical grooves disposed in mirrored rotational relation about a centered longitudinal axis and Schwarzler does not overcome this deficiency. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 3, 9 and 11 which depend from claim 1 define over the art and are in suitable condition for allowance. Claim 12 also recites helical grooves disposed in mirrored rotational relation about a centered longitudinal axis and therefore also defines over the art. Claims 13 – 15 depend from claim 12 and are therefore also in suitable condition for allowance.

It is submitted that the amendments have antecedent basis in the application as filed and that the amendments do not add new matter to the application. It is further submitted that the amendments place the claims of the application in suitable condition for allowance; notice of which is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS

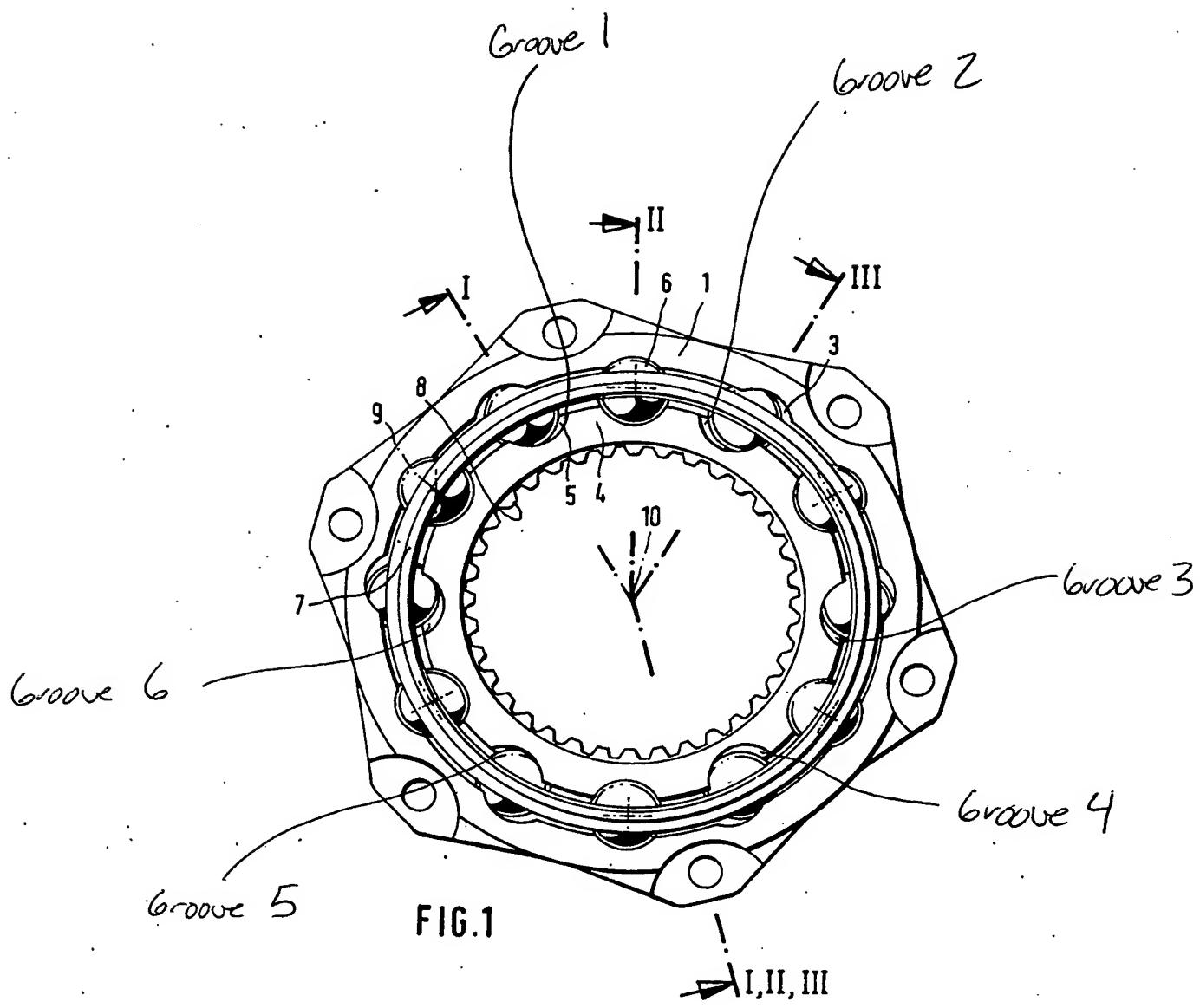


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Grooves disposed on opposite sides of center axis 10

1,4 Groove 1 is left-hand; Groove 4 is right-hand
2,5 Groove 2 is right-hand; Groove 5 is left-hand
3,6 Groove 3 is left-hand; Groove 6 is right-hand

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.1 AND 1.8

I hereby certify that this RCE, One-Month Extension of Time, AMENDMENT, Attachment and fees are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Label No. postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to MAIL STOP RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on **May 31, 2005**.

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